

Message Text

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13

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-03 COA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6179

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BR, BL, CI

SUBJECT: VISIT OF BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. VISIT OF BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALBERTO GUZMAN SORIANO TO BRASILIA FOR RATIFICATION OF THE BRAZIL-BOLIVIA COOPERATION AND INDUSTRIAL COMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT WENT OFF IN ROUTINELY PLEASANT AND PROTOCOLARY FASHION WITH GUZMAN RECEIVING THE STANDARD DECORATION AND DINNER IN HIS HONOR, AND CALLING ON THE CONGRESS AND ON PRESIDENT GEISEL.

2. UPON ARRIVAL HERE, GUZMAN WAS QUOTED DISMISSING BOLIVIAN OPPOSITION TO THE AGREEMENT AS "SOMETHING OVERCOME AND AN INSIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION." (ONE NEWSPAPER SUBSEQUENTLY ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE HIS DISMISSAL, THE CEREMONY WAS TRANSFERRED TO BRASILIA FROM BOLIVIA BECAUSE OF IT.) THE QUESTION OF BRAZILIAN LANDGRABBERS IN BOLIVIA WAS SIMILARLY BRUSHED ASIDE, WITH ONE PAPER CITING "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" AS DECLARING THAT

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IF IT WAS MENTIONED AT ALL IN THE TALKS BETWEEN

THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS, "IT WAS ONLY IN PASSING."

3. SILVEIRA TOOK THE OCCASION OF HIS DINNER IN HONOR OF GUZMAN TO DENY ONCE AGAIN ANY BRAZILIAN PRETENSION TO HEGEMONY, REJECTING "ANY KIND OF INSINUATION TO THE EFFECT THAT BRAZILIAN DEVELOPMENT INTENDS TO BE PURSUED AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER NATIONS." FOR HIS PART, GUZMAN DECLARED BOLIVIAN "RECOGNITION OF THE UNDERSTANDING BRAZIL HAS SHOWN TOWARD THE PROBLEM OF THE SEALING OFF (CLAUSURAMENTO) OF BOLIVIA" (FROM ACCESS TO THE SEA). ACCORDING TO ONE PAPER, HE ADDED; "IN FACT, OUR BLOCKADE, ALMOST A CENTURY OLD, SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE IN AMERICA, WITHOUT THE RISK OF DENYING THE DESTINY OF PEACE AND COOPERATION WHICH IS RESERVED TO OUR CONTINENT."

4. FOLLOWING RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT, THE TWO MINISTERS ISSUED A JOINT DECLARATION ACCORDING TO WHICH (AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS HERE) BRAZIL WILL PROVIDE A US\$12 MILLION CREDIT FOR THE ACQUISITION (IN BRAZIL) OF EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY, AND SPARE PARTS "DESTINED FOR THE REALIZATION OF VARIOUS BOLIVIAN PROGRAMS OF INTEREST TO THE TWO COUNTRIES," A US\$50 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO THE BOLIVIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND, AND A US\$10 MILLION CREDIT AS PER ARTICLE 5 OF THE AGREEMENT. "WITH REGARD TO THE UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES," THE DECLARATION WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, THE TWO MINISTERS "REAFFIRMED THEIR ADHESION TO THE PRINCIPLES WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE ASUNCION DECLARATION ON THE USE OF INTERNATIONAL RIVERS", AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE ITAIPU DAN CONTROVERSY. SILVEIRA WAS QUOTED AS HAILING THE AGREEMENT AS UNIQUE IN LATIN AMERICA IN THAT "AVAILABILITIES OF RESOURCES AND MARKETS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE PREFERENTIALLY DESIGNED TO FILLING THE NEEDS OF THE PARTNER." GUZMAN CALLED THE AGREEMENT "THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC INSTRUMENT SIGNED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES."

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